

Message Text

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APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY

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TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 045352

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR FROM THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, LU, XF

SUBJECT: U.S./EC PRESIDENCY DIALOGUE - MIDDLE EAST

REF: LUXEMBOURG 165

1. I APPRECIATE PRIME MINISTER THORN'S COMMITMENT TO THE PEACE-SEEKING FRAMEWORK WITHIN WHICH WE HAVE WORKED THESE PAST TWO YEARS, AS WELL AS HIS DESIRE TO ASSURE THAT EUROPEAN ACTIONS DO NOT DISRUPT IT. ON INSTRUCTIONS, YOU SHOULD SEEK AN EARLY APPOINTMENT WITH THORN TO CONVEY THE FOREGOING AND TO RESPOND TO THE QUESTIONS HE PUT TO ME THROUGH WURTH.

2. FOLLOWING ARE POINTS YOU SHOULD MAKE IN RESPONSE TO THORN'S REQUEST FOR MY ANALYSIS OF CHATTY'S LINE AND MY VIEWS ON A EUROPEAN GESTURE TOWARD THE PLO:

--WHILE THE CENTRAL THEME OF CHATTY'S REMARKS -- THAT
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STALEMATE COULD LEAD TO A DANGEROUS RADICALIZATION IN THE

AREA -- IS VALID, HIS REMEDIES ARE AT BEST QUESTIONABLE.

--WHILE IT MAY BE UNREALISTIC TO EXPECT EARLY DRAMATIC PROGRESS IN NEGOTIATIONS, THIS DOES NOT MEAN THERE CANNOT BE SUFFICIENT MOVEMENT TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND PREVENT A DETERIORATION OF THE SITUATION; THE U.S. IS COMMITTED TO

MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO ACHIEVE MOVEMENT IN THE NEGOTIATIONS THIS YEAR, AND WE HAVE ALREADY BEGUN DURING PRIME MINISTER RABIN'S VISIT CONSULTING WITH THE PARTIES TO THIS END; THESE CONSULTATIONS WILL CONTINUE WITH THE ARAB GOVERNMENTS CONCERNED, AND AS PART OF THIS PROCESS WE INTEND TO HAVE OUR AMBASSADORS TO CAIRO, DAMASCUS AND AMMAN COME TO WASHINGTON AFTER SECRETARY'S LATIN AMERICA TRIP SO THAT THEY CAN RETURN AND EXPLORE ALL POSSIBILITIES FULLY WITH THEIR HOST GOVERNMENTS.

--AS A PRACTICAL MATTER, THE U.S. ROLE REMAINS ESSENTIAL IF ANY PROGRESS IS TO BE MADE, AND IT WOULD NOT BE DOING THE CAUSE OF PEACE A SERVICE TO ENCOURAGE THE ARABS TO THINK THERE WAS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE OR TO MAKE GESTURES WHICH WOULD MAKE OUR ROLE EVEN MORE DIFFICULT.

--THE MOST USEFUL RESPONSE THORN AND HIS COLLEAGUES CAN MAKE TO APPROACHES LIKE CHATTY'S IS TO STRESS TO THE ARABS THAT WHILE EUROPE IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PALESTINIANS, THE PLO MUST ITSELF MAKE THE EFFORT TO BECOME A VIABLE NEGOTIATING PARTNER BY ACCEPTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST EXPLICITLY.

--IN REPLYING TO CHATTY AND THOSE WHO MAY ARGUE SIMILARLY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL, TOO, FOR THORN AND HIS COLLEAGUES TO EMPHASIZE THAT IT IS NOT ONLY THE U.S. AND ISRAEL WHICH HAVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MAINTAINING MOMENTUM; THE ARABS, TOO, MUST CONTRIBUTE POSITIVELY AND NOT SEEK RHETORICAL "VICTORIES" AT THE EXPENSE OF REAL PROGRESS.

--THE EUROPEANS NEED TO REMEMBER THAT ISRAELIS ARE CONVINCED THAT EUROPE IS BIASED AGAINST THEM AND,
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THEREFORE, EUROPE COULD ALSO HELP BY ASSURING THAT ANY STATEMENTS OF SYMPATHY WITH THE PALESTINIANS ARE ACCOMPANIED -- IN THE SAME TEXT -- BY STATEMENTS ABOUT THE NEED FOR ALL PARTIES, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIANS, EXPLICITLY TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE AND RESOLUTIONS 242 AND 338.

--SECRETARY FEELS THE FOREGOING ARE IMPORTANT POINTS

WHICH HE WOULD HOPE OUR EUROPEAN FRIENDS WOULD KEEP IN
MIND OVER THE COMING MONTHS IN THEIR CONVERSATIONS WITH
THE ARABS. KISSINGER

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